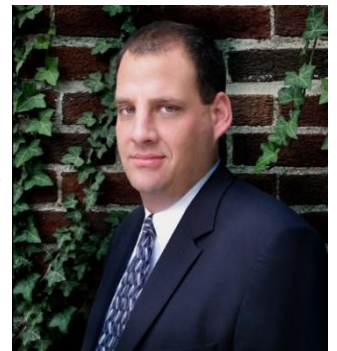


FAU English

Fall 2016 | Issue 5

Letter from the Chair

The 2016-17 academic year is upon us, and with it our fifth annual departmental newsletter. 2015-16 was a busy one for the department, its faculty and students. As I do each year, I would like to congratulate our graduates and award winners, listed in this newsletter. This past year, we welcomed the renowned poet, Tom Sleight, as our Lawrence A. Sanders Writer in Residence. We also welcomed Brandeis University Associate Professor, Faith Smith, as a Visiting Scholar in Spring 16. She taught a graduate and undergraduate course in her specialization of Caribbean Literature, and gave two talks on her ongoing research on Caribbean ruins, photography, and literature. We also hosted readings by poets, novelists, and memoirists, Russell Banks, Jay Critchley, Dwayne Betts, David Keplinger, and Chantel Acevedo. These authors read from a wide variety of works and experiences, including Cuban-American immigrant fiction, poems about incarceration and the U. S. prison system, poems and translations about Denmark and the Czech Republic, and race relations in South Florida. Both students and community were stimulated and educated by these visiting writers. Another successful year was also completed in our Honors programs, both in Creative Writing and in reading and literary criticism. This year, all Honors students were able to present their work in a public forum, receiving feedback and applause. We are happy to welcome back both Adam Spry and Lilleth Trewick from McKnight Fellowships, as Professor Spry wraps up his book on Ojibwe literary history and returns reinvigorated to the classroom. This year, Prof. Dan Murtaugh undertakes a full-year sabbatical to work on his book on the French fabliaux, while Profs. Adam Bradford and Julieann Ulin will also each spend one semester sabbaticals devoted to their research. Congratulations to them for winning these competitive awards! Professors Susan Mitchell and Thomas Martin also received competitive fellowships from the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, with Prof. Mitchell working on completing her fourth widely acclaimed book of poems, and Prof. Martin continuing his work on untangling a new mode of literary interpretation. To help carry the teaching load, we have hired five new Visiting Instructors, Stephanie Anderson, Nico Cassanetti, Toni Francis, Heather Léger, and James White. We are excited to welcome them all, and you can find out more about them in this newsletter. We look forward to this year's "Off the Page" Creative Writing series, which will include visits by the memoirist/poet/fiction writer, Ira Sukrungruang, fiction writer Jensen Beach, poet Elizabeth Powell, and novelists Rebecca Makkai and Justin Torres. We are also excited to welcome back Victoria Fedden to the series, our own MFA graduate, who has just published a hit memoir with Picador. In addition to a public reading, Justin Torres, our Lawrence Sanders Writer in Residence, will teach a week-long course to our graduate students in March. Particularly exciting for the forthcoming year will be the debut of a brand new national literary magazine edited and produced by FAU students, *The Swamp Ape Review*. Meanwhile, *Coastlines* will continue to showcase the work of our undergraduates. Additional events will be posted on our departmental website (www.fau.edu/english). Please pay close attention to the site as we head into an exciting new year!

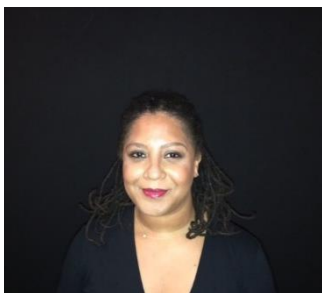


Visiting Instructors



Stephanie Anderson holds a MFA in creative nonfiction from Florida Atlantic University. Her work has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *The Chronicle Review*, *Devil's Lake*, and *Farm and Ranch Living*, and she is the winner of the 2015 Payton James Freeman Essay Prize. Stephanie recently attended the Clarksville Writers Conference in Clarksville, TN, with grant assistance from FAU's Lifelong Learning Society, where she has taught classes in memoir and poetry at the Jupiter campus. She is proud to have grown up in South Dakota, and she recently completed a book on sustainable agriculture.

Nico Cassanetti graduated from The New School with a B.A. in Literary Studies & Creative Writing, and her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Florida Atlantic University in Spring 2016. Her creative works have appeared in *The A3 Review*, *Proximity Magazine*, and *3Elements Review*. She has also written editorial pieces for *LIFE|STYLE Magazine*, *Muses & Visionaries Magazine*, *The Faster Times* and *Abramsbooks.com*. She is currently working on her first book-length manuscript, a memoir focusing on the maternal lineage of her family entitled *Life in Three Houses*, and lives in Palm Beach Gardens with her fiancé and corgi. If you need to find Nico she's probably with Jamie.



Toni Francis served for eight years as an assistant professor of English at The College of The Bahamas, where she taught college composition, advanced composition, genre studies, and modern and early modern drama. As head of the Literature department, Dr. Francis served as the coordinator of the Bachelor of Arts degree in English, and directed senior theses in literature, creative writing, and film studies. She founded and sponsored the COB chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, and fostered strong relationships between English majors and the Shakespeare in Paradise theatre festival, encouraging their participation in and production of Bahamian avant-garde film and theatre projects.

Heather Léger was made in Michigan of mostly French and Italian parts. Though she's lived in Florida since the mid-80's, her soul is still entirely Midwestern and she very much wants to order "pop" rather than "soda." She completed both undergrad and graduate school here at FAU, and after a brief stint as a music major at another local university, she ended up with a dual BA in English and Art History, a Certificate in Classical Studies (2001), and an MA in English (2004). She has taught Comp and Lit classes both online and on campus for several colleges and universities, and chaired the Gen Ed department for two years at Everglades University in Boca Raton. She is the proud aunt of eight (soon to be nine!) nieces and nephews, and mom to one foxy dog, the Shiba Inu Renzo: most noble and fuzzy is he.



James White holds a B.A. in Creative Writing from Knox College and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Florida Atlantic University, where he was a Lawrence A. Sanders poet fellow. Winner of a 2014 AWP Intro Journals Project award in poetry and three-time Pushcart Prize nominee, his writing has been published by *Colorado Review*, *Passages North*, *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, *Gertrude*, *Tahoma Literary Review*, and *DIAGRAM*, among others. His chapbook, *hiku [pull]* (Porkbelly Press), was published earlier this year. Born in England, James is most recently from Portland, Oregon. He currently lives with his partner, John, and their two dogs, Izzy (black lab mix/micro rhinoceros) and Jack (greyhound/macro mosquito), in West Palm Beach, FL.

Faculty Promotions

Promoted to Full Professor: **Jennifer Low, Eric Berlatsky**

Tenured & Promoted to Associate Professor: **Wendy Hinshaw**

Promoted to Senior Instructor: **Russ Redman, Warren Kelly, Scarlett Rooney, Kathleen Moorhead, Melissa Criscuolo**

Department Publications & Awards

Mauricio Almonte published the short poem "What Grass" in the Whitmanesque section of *ZO Magazine* and a short Christmas translation in *Culture Strike* magazine.

Stephanie Anderson won the best MFA Thesis Award for Nonfiction and published an essay, "Greyhound" in *The Rumpus*.

Barclay Barrios received \$3500 for the Office of Undergraduate Research Initiative (OURI) Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) to support his mentorship of Charles Pratt's project "Queer Images: Photographs of LGBTQ Americans."

Eric Berlatsky published two book reviews in *Imagetext* and one in the *Scandinavian Journal of Comic Art*.

Nick Becher published a short story in *NoiseMedium*.

Adam Bradford was awarded a half-year sabbatical and published "Embodying the Book: Mourning for the Masses in Walt Whitman's 'Drum-Taps'" in *The Mickle Street Review*.

Papatya Bucak was selected as a Writer-in-Residence at Palm Beach State College, where she delivered a Craft Talk and read a new short story. She published a short story, "A Cautionary Tale" in *Pinch* and had her short story, "The Missing Beloved, The Gathering of Desire" reprinted online in *Litrigger*. She received an Advisory Board School of the Arts Creative Grant. Her essay "I Am Not A Muslim, But..." appeared in *Asterix* and "Person, Place, or Thing: Characterizing Setting" in *Fiction Writer's Review*. She was also featured in *Legacymakers: 100 Women of Distinction at FAU*.

Oliver Buckton published *Espionage in British Fiction and Film Since 1900: The Changing Enemy* (Rowman and Littlefield). He was named the College of Arts and Letters Scholar of the Year at the Full Professor level.

Nico Cassanetti published "Upper West Side" in *Proximity* and another piece in the *A3 Review*. She received a \$500 travel grant to conduct research for creative work.

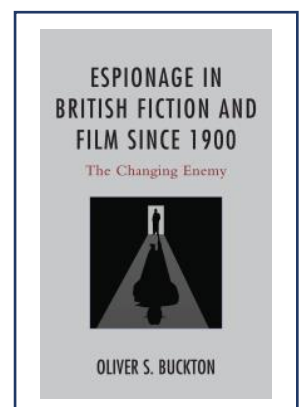
Dan Creed has recently been appointed Fantasy Literature Division Head for the International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts. He will be shadowing the current, outgoing division head through the March 2017 conference and will assume full responsibility for the division at the conclusion of the March 2017 conference.

Melissa Criscuolo published a poem, "Bloodlines," in *Razor* and three more poems in *Mezzo Cammin*.

Dustin DiPaulo received a \$500 travel grant to conduct research for creative work.

Mary Faraci won the Exceptional Faculty Member Award for the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters at the Northern Campus Achievement Awards.

Andy Furman published his essay "The Problem With Pretty Birds" in *Terrain*.



Department Publications & Awards continued

Jeff Galin was part of a faculty group awarded \$5000 for a Digital Arts and Social Justice exhibit and an additional \$2000 for a School of the Arts Creative Grant.

Kira Geiger published a poem “Person (pl)” in *NoiseMedium* and five additional poems at macro-poetics.com.

Katrina Gersie won the best MFA Thesis Award in Fiction.

Taylor Hagood co-edited *Undead Souths: The Gothic and Beyond in Southern Literature and Culture* (Louisiana State UP, 2015) in which his essay “Going to Ground: The Undead in Contemporary Southern Popular Culture Media and Writing” appears. He won the Society for the Study of Southern Literature C. Hugh Holman Prize for his book *Faulkner, Writer of Disability*.

Wendy Hinshaw was part of a faculty group awarded \$5000 for a Digital Arts and Social Justice exhibit and an additional \$2000 for a School of the Arts Creative Grant. Her writing-exchange program was the cover story in *University Press* in January 2016.

Rebecca Jensen received a \$500 travel grant to conduct research for creative work. She published the poem “In Fargo We Say Goodbye” in *Euonia Review*.

Shari Lefler published “The Bra: A Family History” on Bust.com and won a \$1000 scholarship from the National Society of Arts and Letters.

Jennifer Low published “Early Modern Audiences and the Pleasures of Cross-Dressed Characters” in *Poetics Today* 35.4 (Winter 2014) and a new book *Dramatic Spaces: Scenography and Spectatorial Perceptions* (Routledge). She participated in a panel and symposium at the Frost Art Museum at FIU to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, which featured an exhibit of Shakespeare First Folios.

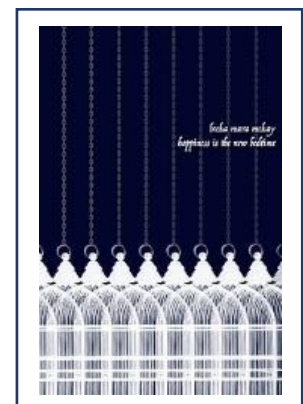
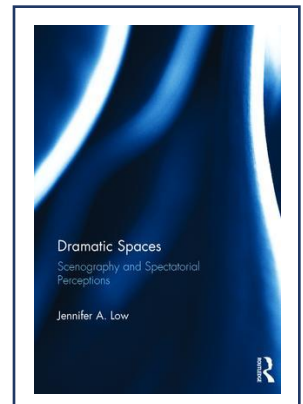
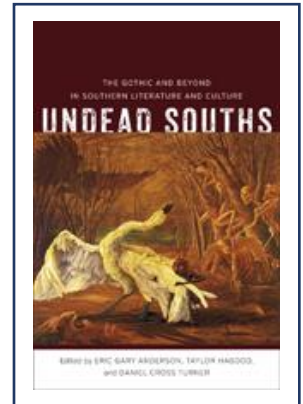
Nick Marino published a book review of *Women, Writing, and Prison* in *Reflections*.

Tom Martin published a new essay on teaching Tolkien in *Approaches to Teaching Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings and Other Works* (MLA). He was awarded a SCAF for Spring 17 to work on his new book project.

Becka McKay’s translation of the Hebrew of Alex Epstein, “On the Time Difference Between Poetry and Prose” was reprinted in *Flash Fiction International: Very Short Stories from Around the World* (WW Norton). She was part of a faculty group awarded \$5000 for a Digital Arts and Social Justice exhibit and an additional \$2000 for a School of the Arts Creative Grant. Her poem “Blue Medina: A Kind of Pilgrimage” appeared in the Fall/Winter 2015 issue of *Isthmus*. “Materializing the Gesture of Resistance” appeared in *Passages North*, “What We Believe We Believe” in *The Colorado Review*, three more poems in *Meridian*, three more in *The Prism Review*, and a new chapbook, *Happiness is the New Bedtime* from Slash Pine Press.

Susan Mitchell was awarded a SCAF for Fall 2016 to pursue the completion of her volume of poems. She also published two poems, “Prelude 1” and “Prelude 3,” in *Fence*, and another, “Flashovers,” in the *Seneca Review*.

Dan Murtaugh was awarded a full-year sabbatical. He published the essay “Havelok the Dane: Kingship, Hunger, and Purveyance” in *Neophilologist*.



Department Publications & Awards continued

Chris Notarnicola published in *NoiseMedium* and his essay “Indigent Disposition” appeared in the *North American Review*. He was selected as a finalist for the Torch Prize for nonfiction.

Michelle Rovere won the Howard Pearce Award for Best MA Thesis.

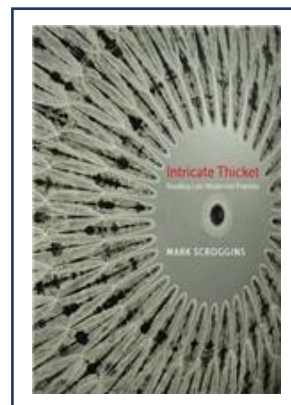
Jason Schwartz published a new short story, “Decorum in the Fall,” in *Funhouse Magazine*.

Mark Scroggins published his collection of essays *Intricate Thicket: Late Modernist Poetics* (U of Alabama Press). He also published *Michael Moorcock: Fiction, Fantasy, and the World’s Pain* (McFarland).

Mary Sheffield-Gentry published “The Blood Museum” in the *Hayden’s Ferry Review*.

Julieann Ulin was awarded a half-year sabbatical and an OURI grant to incorporate archival research skill building into “Introduction to Literary Studies.”

Jamie White published “Transmigration” at *Hermeneutic Chaos* and “How to (re)Write ‘Hope Is A Thing With Feathers’ by Emily Dickinson” in the first issue of *Synezoma*. He also published “21st Century Soundscape” in *Passages North* and “Fan Wear” in *Disagrm*. Finally, he published his first poetry chapbook, *hiku[pull]* (Porkbelly Press). He was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.



Faculty Spotlight: EGSS President Ashley Moskowitz interviews Dr. Adam Spry

Ashley Moskowitz: What are you currently researching?

Adam Spry: I just finished the manuscript for “Our Warpaint is Writers' Ink: Anishinaabe Literary Transnationalism,” which is a literary history of my people, the Anishinaabe, who live around the Great Lakes region of the U.S. and Canada. The book looks at the way Anishinaabe cultural material moves back and forth between indigenous and non-Native literary contexts--the most famous example being Longfellow's *The Song of Hiawatha*, which was actually based on traditional Anishinaabe stories. The book explores the way the Anishinaabe actively participate in this cultural exchange in order to make political claims in support of their rights as a sovereign nation. Soon, I hope to begin my next project, which will look at the Native American avant-garde.



AM: What classes will you be teaching in the upcoming academic year?

AS: This fall, I'll be teaching an undergraduate survey of American Indian literatures, in which we read a variety of novels, stories, and poems from tribal groups around the U.S. and put them in the historical context of U.S. Federal Indian policy. I'm also really excited to teach a graduate seminar on comparative global Indigenous literatures--a field that is just beginning to be developed. We'll be reading books by First Nations, Maori, Aboriginal Australian, and even indigenous peoples from Europe and Siberia. In the spring, I'm scheduled to teach American Literature after 1895, Movements in 20th c. American Literature, and Honors Research.

AM: What can you tell us about the McKnight Fellowship?

AS: I was very fortunate to spend the past academic year as a McKnight Junior Faculty Fellow, which allowed me to finish work on my book manuscript--an important step towards tenure. The McKnight Fellowships are meant to support doctoral students and junior faculty members from underrepresented groups as they pursue careers in academia in the state of Florida. You can find more information on the McKnight program at the website for the Florida Education Fund: <http://www.fefonline.org>. I heartily encourage every grad student to apply for external aid. Not only will it help support your education, it is important practice for the kind of applications you'd write for PhD programs, grants, and jobs.

AM: What advice do you have for graduate students?

AS: Write early, write often! Writing is one of the most important skills you will develop as an English graduate student--whether you are an MA, MFA, or PhD student. If you're able, try to write every day. Write notes about your readings. Compose poems, stories, or plays. Keep a journal about your classes. Start your term papers as early as possible, so that you can get feedback and revise them later. Write like it is your job--because, in many ways, it is. And remember: a good paper/thesis/dissertation is a finished paper/thesis/dissertation.

AM: Have you read any great books lately?

AS: My wife and I recently adopted a retired Greyhound, so I've been reading Alexandra Horowitz's really great *Inside of a Dog*, which is a wonderfully researched and accessible examination of canine psychology. Other than that, I've recently enjoyed David Treuer's latest novel, *Prudence*, about a small Minnesota community dealing with an unexpected tragedy during WWII, as well as Liz Howard's phenomenal debut poetry collection, *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent*, which just won the Griffin Prize. Waiting on my shelf is Louise Erdrich's *La Rose*, Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*, and too many others. And I just can't wait for the next book of Ken Liu's Dandelion Dynasty series, *Wall of Storms*, which should be out in October.

Student Activities & Organizations

Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta is the national English Honors Society. Members attain academic recognition for their studies in English. Members may submit critical papers and creative work to the Society's annual publications, *The Sigma Tau Delta Rectangle* and *The Sigma Tau Delta Review*, or the Society's two online publications, *The Sigma Tau Delta Newsletter* and *WORDY by Nature* (blog). Students are able to present research at the annual convention. A series of scholarships (valued up to \$5,000) and internships are also available. Overall, the membership allows students to be recognized for their academic achievement, while connecting them to career and academic opportunities and merits.

The Sigma Tau Delta Kappa Rho Chapter aims to share a love of literature with its fellow FAU students and the community. Fall term will begin with the Induction Ceremony/Creative reading night in the Jaffe Center near the end of September (watch for announcements forthcoming), and Sigma Tau Delta representatives will appear at an FAU Expo event to recruit students into our Arts & Letters program. On September 27, the chapter will be co-sponsoring the Poetry Slam with *Coastlines Literary Journal*. And for the month of November, it will present a panel of speakers on the topic "How to Start Your First Novel," to coincide with the National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). If you would like more information about upcoming events and/or membership, please contact **Lynn Jonason**, President, STD Kappa Rho Chapter at ljonason2015@fau.edu.

Coastlines



2016 Coastlines Literary Magazine cover

FAU's expressive literary voice. Original artwork, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and graphic narrative. Student-run. Student-performed. Annually Published.

<https://twitter.com/coastlinesfau>

English Club

We had a great year in the English Club this past year! The highlight was our Halloween Murder Mystery costume party, co-sponsored with Sigma Tau Delta. This was held at Bookwise Bookstore. We all dressed up as our favorite literary character or author and acted out a script. It was a blast! The club also got together periodically throughout the semester informally to enjoy coffee and donuts on the third floor atrium of CU. We talked about our favorite books, classes (and professors!). We held informal creative writing workshops, as well, to offer one another support and feedback. We're looking forward to another great year in 2016-17. Possible events include a faculty-student spelling bee, movie and trivia night. Please visit our website to find out more about our upcoming events: http://www.fau.edu/english/english_club.php.



Student Activities & Organizations continued

English Graduate Student Society

Happy New School Year from the 2016-2017 English Graduate Student Society (EGSS) board!

President: **Ashley Nugent Moskowitz**

Vice President: **Rich Saltzberg**

Vice President of GTAs: **Jason Benkly**

Secretary: **Cailley Millar**

Treasurer: **Anthony Padavano**

Our school year kicked off to a great start with a welcome party for the new MA and MFA students at the end of orientation week. We had so much fun meeting and hanging out with everyone (old friends and new) over some delicious pies at Pizza 5000. It was a diverse bunch and there was something for everyone – cheese, pepperoni, vegan veggie-lover, gluten-free and more. We're looking forward to hosting more social events in the coming year. Our next event will be our semi-annual Definitely-Not-Hosted-by-EGSS Fall potluck picnic in October – hopefully after the weather has cooled. This will give you a chance to escape CU311, eat pumpkin pie, and hang out with new and returning students, faculty members, alumni, friends, family and maybe even some pets. It's also a good idea to start thinking about a paper you'd like to present during the EGSS Spring Conference. This is a fantastic professional development opportunity for you and a great way to see what your fellow graduate students are working on. The Spring Conference is an opportunity for you to present your scholarly papers and projects in an academic setting and obtain feedback from members of our academic community. It's a great chance to bolster your professional resume and/or CV, and we hope to receive some exciting proposals! The conference dates are not yet settled, but it will be held sometime in March and will feature an exciting keynote speaker, as well as panels, discussions, interviews, and a creative reading. We hope to see you all there!



For more information on any of our events (social and educational) find us on Facebook at English Graduate Student Society at Florida Atlantic University. For questions or queries, you may also contact this year's president, **Ashley Moskowitz**, at amoskowitz2015@fau.edu.

The Honors in English & Honors in Creative Writing Programs

The Honors in English two semester course sequence provides the opportunity for qualified majors to undertake advanced literary research in a community of their undergraduate peers. In 2015-2016, Jennifer Low and Oliver Buckton taught the honors sequence. On April 21st, the 2015-2016 English Honors Program students presented their honors thesis research which showcased a broad array of topics and critical approaches. These included cognitive narratology and “the two cultures” in Margaret Atwood’s *The MaddAddam Trilogy*, perception and ethics in Kurt Vonnegut’s *Breakfast of Champions*, the influence of classical Greek tragedy and comedy on the power dynamics of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, postmodern theory and Stephen King’s *The Dark Tower* series, an animal studies approach to animal performances and the “sideshow” in modernist literature and culture, disability studies and Flannery O’Connor, and a transgender studies approach to Virginia Woolf’s *Orlando*. Jodi Weismann, Nicholas Morano, and Daniela Barbieri also presented their work at the 6th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, where Jodi won first place in Oral Presentations in the category of Music, Art, Literature, Theater, and Philosophy. For more information on the program, see <http://www.fau.edu/english/englishhonors.php>.

Students in the Honors Creative Writing Program enroll in Honors Creative Writing Seminar in order to facilitate the completion of the creative writing thesis and expand students’ understanding of the craft of writing. This past spring, A. Papatya Bucak taught the seminar and student work ranged from realist fiction about a man reuniting with his brother on his first day out of prison to a fantasy novel about an autistic teen to a series of short stories set in an unnamed South American country. For more information on the program, see <http://www.fau.edu/english/creativewritinghonors.php>.

2015-2016 English Honors Students

Stephanie Albrecht, “Total Eucatastrophe: *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* as a Recreation of Greek Theatre”

Daniela Barbieri, “What Is the Sex of the Spirit?: Examining the Multiplicities and Manifestations of Gender in Woolf’s *Orlando*.”

Clarke Bisby, “Oh, the Humanities: Symbolic Thought and the Meaning of Humanity in Margaret Atwood’s *The MaddAddam Trilogy*”

Shannon Krieger, “The Anxiety and Curiosity of Human Animality: Modernism and the Sideshow”

Nicholas Morano, “The Morality of Difference: Disability Studies and the Fiction of Flannery O’Connor”

Andrew Mattingly, “Sixth Sense and Beyond”

Aakash Patel, “A Conflict of Postmodern Representation: Stephen King’s *The Dark Tower* series”



Stephanie Albrecht, Clarke Bisby, & Shannon Krieger present their thesis research

2016 Creative Writing Honors Students

Amalena Caldwell, “Castle of the Unwanted”

Juan Alonso Rodriguez Romero, “All Return”

Paula Lye, “Easy Lessons for a Dunce”

Erica Nelson, “The Cost of Living”

Alina Perrin, “The Dragon in the Rice Field”

Craig Ryan, “The Grand Marquis”

Jodi Weissman, “A Boy and His Spider”



Creative Writing Honors Students (Left to Right) Alina Perrin, Beckett Ananda, Professor Papatya Bucak, Jodi Weissman, & Paula Lye

Awards

Undergraduate Awards

The English Department chose **Mattison Schuknecht** and **Paula Lye** as the 2016-2017 Outstanding English Senior Award recipients. Nominated by multiple faculty members who praised his “brilliant mind and unbounded intellectual curiosity,” Mattison published “C.S. Lewis’s Debt to Dante: *The Voyage of the ‘Dawn Treader’* and *Purgatorio*” in the peer-reviewed journal *Mythlore* (Volume 34, Issue 2 Spring/Summer 2016). Paula Lye graduated with honors in creative writing for her novella, “Easy Lessons for a Dunce,” which aims to address the Asian population in Trinidad. Multiple faculty members praised her superior work in a range of literature courses and noted the potential of her writing “to make a unique contribution.” Congratulations Mattison and Paula!

Kritzia Sanabria won the Outstanding Student Award for the College of Arts and Letters Jupiter campus. Kritzia’s strong skills in textual analysis are matched with the kind of curiosity that produces great research questions. Her recent research explores the role of Sean O’Casey’s Dublin plays in depicting the 1916 Easter Rising. Kritzia will join the 2016-2017 Honors in English Program.

6th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium winner for Best Oral Presentation in the category of Music, Art, Literature, Theater, and Philosophy: **Jodi Weissman**

Hollingsworth Winner (best undergraduate short story): **Alina Perrin**

Aisling Award winners: **Janine Ariel Shand** (poetry), **Jodi Weissman** (nonfiction), and **Michelle Boyar** (fiction)

Best ENC 1101/02 essay: **Angela Pizzimenti**

Best LIT 20XX Essay: **Chance Chrisman**



*Outstanding English Senior Award
winner Mattison Schuknecht*



*NCAA Outstanding Student Award Winner Kritzia Sanabria
with fellow NCAA award winner Mary Faraci*

Awards continued

2015 Graduate Awards

MFA Thesis Awards for 2015: **Stephanie Anderson** (nonfiction) for “Letter from the Inside: a Conventional Farmer’s Daughter on the Need for a New Agriculture” and **Katrina Gersie** (fiction) for “Mornings in the Athens of America: Stories.” In “Letters from the Inside,” Stephanie Anderson presents a vision for sustainable, regenerative agriculture from the perspective of someone born and raised on a conventional cattle ranch. From Florida to New Mexico to the Dakotas, she traces the stories of farmers and ranchers who are already creating such an agriculture. She argues that producers, in tandem with consumers and government, hold the power to change what is currently an environmentally and socially destructive food system. The eleven short stories in Katrina Gersie’s collection can be described as autobiographical fiction, combining true instances from the author’s life with fictional characters and events. The stories explore the themes of grief and loss, coming of age, and the importance of preserving the natural world.

Howard Pearce Award for Best MA Thesis of 2015: **Michelle Rovere** for her thesis, “Sentimental Spirits: Saving the Soul While Seizing the Heart and Swaying the Mind.” During the nineteenth century, African American women like Jarena Lee, Zilpha Elaw, and Julia Foote wrote narratives of their spiritual conversions. Michele Rovere’s research examines the connection between nineteenth century African American feminine spiritual narratives and sentimental literature. Her study concludes that women like Lee, Elaw and Foote employed strategies of sentimental literature when writing their spiritual narratives in an effort to convert readers while taking them on an emotional journey designed to change their attitudes about issues such as abolition and female autonomy.

Most Promising Graduate Teaching Assistant Award: **Natalie Rowland**

2015 Lawrence A. Sanders Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellowship: **Nicholas Becher, Brianne Bendel, Kim Grabenhorst, Kathleen Martin, Kathryn McLaughlin, and James White**

The Thomas Burnett Swann Award to support travel for writing or to literary conferences or events: **Rebecca Jensen, Kathryn McLaughlin, and Natalie Rowland**



MA grad Ashely Tisdale with Taylor Hagood



MA grads: (Left to Right) Donna Olivia Paxson, Jessica Furth, Travis Finch

2015-2016 Graduates

Undergraduates - Bachelor of Arts

Fall 2015

Tracy Abel*
 Ubojekere Ajoku
 Veronica Aldous*
 Karen Aylor
 Stephanie Bachar*
 Kathrine Bolderson
 Christine Bollinger
 Parker Caldwell
 Spring Canada*
 Nikki Castro
 Adrienne Damsky
 Chelsie Duplain*
 Kathleen Escobar
 Megan Ferguson
 Nia Ferguson
 Michelle Ferrand*
 Amanda Foulon
 Emily Froman*
 JoAnne George
 Mayra Girasol*
 Christian Gomez*
 Evan Greaves
 Brandee Harris
 Erin Heming
 Brittany Hughes
 Laurretta Innocent
 Erica Kates*
 Denario Kelly
 Nicole Lezama*
 Francesca Lloyd*
 Ashley Madison

Sarah Maristany
 Michael Merson
 Derek Moss
 Renee Nakash
 Timothy Naslund
 Jana Newton*
 Krystal Ortner
 Marisa Papa
 Ariam Pernice
 Benjamin Pierce
 Michelle Polink
 Krystyna Powell
 Rebecca Poznick
 Esmeralda Ramos
 Elizabeth Reilly
 Yvonne Rieckhoff*
 Jordyn Riege*
 Diana Rodas
 Danielle Sanderson
 Candice Sanzari*
 Jessica Scheinberg*
 Mattison Schuknecht*
 Janine Shand*
 Hannah Smith*
 Sierra Sturchio
 Amanda Van Wyk*
 Jessica Walsh
 Amy Witham*
 Stephanie Woodberry
 Lacey Zuccala*

Spring 2016

Stephanie Albrecht*
 Daniela Barbieri*
 Carlyne Blot
 Nicole Byers*
 Courtney Callahan
 Sebastian Cardone*
 Nicole Council*
 Lauren Cravens
 Whitli Doke
 Cody Dombeck
 Michael Elgert
 Kathy Estime
 Beckett Farkas*
 Brittany Ferrendi*
 Kristina Forman*
 Laneesia Harmon*
 Jessica Jones*
 Marian Jones*
 Marie Junco*
 Shannon Krieger*
 Tracey Laakso
 Alegna Lara
 Sheba Lawrence
 Elizabeth Lippman
 Paula Lye*
 Cynthia Maceda
 Melinda Majava
 Kamaria Massey
 Dan Miegel
 Ambar Mila
 Michelle Milu

Arezu Motaghedi
 Sonia Perez
 Jennifer Pinto
 Pille Porgand
 Danielle Ruby
 Craig Ryan*
 Tatjana Saunders
 Rachel Scharbo*
 Jennifer Simil*
 Elliott Starkey
 Cristina Terlizzi
 Maria Theodosiou*
 Gabrielle Vernachio*
 Anika Wali
 Melissa Watson
 Jodi Weissman*
 Ryan Wilkey
 Sarah Winklebauer
 Reagan Wolf
 Chelsea Woods
 Kara Yohan
 Briana Zwolinski

Summer 2016

Mailyn Abreu
 Andrew Anglin
 Danielle Ashman
 Danielle Bailey
 Adam Baroni
 Janley Clerge
 Sergio Cortes
 John Danaher*
 Melissa Everett
 Joseph Foley
 Elizabeth Gleasman
 Gilberto Hernandez
 Christina Huether
 Kelsey Kwolek*
 Peterson Lafortune
 Luis Lopez
 William Lowrey*
 Lee Matthey
 Steven Mayer*
 Jasmine McCray
 Crystal McGuire
 Michelle Miller
 Aisling Miroir
 Ebony Moorer
 Kathryn Oliver
 John Henry Parks
 Aakash Patel
 Chad Reeves
 Chelsea Reeves*
 Dwahza Scott
 Iska Stoddart
 Alexandra Tatem
 Miriam Vicovan
 Katherine Yarbrough*
 Katherine Youngross

Graduates - Master of Arts (MA) & Master of Fine Arts (MFA)

Fall 2015 - MA

Dennis Hall
 Gabby Helo
 Paula Wilson

Fall 2015 - MFA

Tom McDermott
 Maddy Miller

Spring 2016 - MA

Pami Beveridge
 Robert Curran
 Laura Diaz de Arce
 Travis Finch
 Jessica Furth
 Jenn Murray
 Donna Olivia Paxson

Spring 2016 - MFA

Aaron Avis
 Nico Cassanetti
 Lisa Chiles
 Kim Grabenhorst
 Shari Lefler
 Matt Parker
 Jamie White

Summer 2016 - MA

Ruben Aguilar
 Rachel Hartnett
 Ashley Tisdale

* signifies university honors



Alumni Updates

Stephanie Anderson (MFA '15) published "Greyhound" in *The Rumpus* and won the 2nd Annual Payton Prize.

Danielle Ashman (BA '16) is service manager at Wells Fargo.

Eduardo Jose Astigarraga (MFA '08) published "The Genesis of Basketball" in *Passages North*.

Adam Berzak (BA '06, MA '10) received his PhD from the University of Miami in Spring 2016. Adam is teaching high school at Seminole Ridge in Loxahatchee and also teaching at PBSU.

Connor Boyle (BA '10, MA '13) is marketing manager at a law firm in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Nicole Carr (BA '07, MA '10) received her PhD from the University of Miami in Spring 2016. This fall, she begins her position as an assistant professor in the Department of Black Studies at SUNY New Paltz.

Keith Clavin (MFA '05) accepted a tenure-track position at the Coast Guard Academy.

Isabelle Clerie (BA '09) was recently featured in *Forbes* magazine for her work in Haiti.
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/devinthorpe/2015/11/13/three-social-entrepreneurs-driving-growth-and-change-in-haiti/>

Brittany Couturier (BA '12) published an e-book, *Confessions of a Grad School Dropout: The Hidden Truth of Graduate Study, the Toll it Takes, and How It Changed One PhD Student's Life Forever*.

Renee Dowbnia (MA '08) is a high school English teacher at Shelby County Schools in Memphis, Tennessee.

Roger Drouin (MFA '12) published "Big Flat" in the *Hawaii Pacific Review*.

Michelle Faerman (BA '11) is lead technician at Witty and Ryme Engineering Corp.

Victoria Fedden (BA '05, MFA '09) published a memoir, *This is Not My Beautiful Life*. Victoria completed her undergraduate work and MFA at FAU and will return to read as part of the Off the Page Series this fall.

Gloria Panzera Fiedler (MFA '10) is co-founder and co-editor of Rum Punch Press.

Michael Furlong (MA '11) is regional librarian at the University of Central Florida.

Rodolphe Ganthier (BA '14) works as a guest service representative for the Miami Dolphins at the new Hard Rock Stadium. He is also working on his MBA in Sports Administration at St. Thomas University.

Lukas Garcia (BA '14) is working on his masters in Computer Science at FAU. He also serves as marketing chair of the IEEE FAU student organization.

Tyi Gardener (BA '15) is obtaining a MS degree in Library and Information Science at Long Island University. She works as a reference assistant in a reading room and genealogy institute, and helps at Gotham Writers Workshop.

Raymond Gibson (BA '03, MFA '08) has published a chapbook of poems called *Meridian*.

Elizabeth Gillespie (BA '07, MA '10) is an instructor at FAU and a student in the Comparative Studies PhD program.



Alumni Updates continued

Denise Gravatt (MA '06) works in the School of Accounting Executive Programs' Professional Services at FAU.

Abbe Greenberg (MFA '13) is patent administrator at Carey Rodriguez Greenberg O'Keefe, LLP.

Josefina Hardman (BA '08) is a PhD candidate and teaching assistant at University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Ashley Harrington (MA '13) is an English teacher for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Rachel Hartnett (BA '13, MA '16), who wrote her thesis on *Game of Thrones* and postcoloniality, is off to the University of Florida's PhD program.

Keisha Hatchett (BA '11) is assistant editor at The Mary Sue in New York.

Jonathan Hernandez (BA '11) is an instructor at the University of Florida.

Dan Kennard (MFA '11) is an adjunct assistant professor of English at Johnson County Community College in Olathe, Kansas.

Kristine Kreidler (BA '09) is teen services librarian at Boynton Beach City Library.

Rob Leivers (BA '10, MA '13) is an adjunct instructor at Palm Beach State College and Broward College.

Michael Linder (BA '05, MA '12) is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley.

Renee Long (MFA '13) is communications specialist at American College of Healthcare Sciences in Portland, Oregon.

Melissa Loucks (BA '07) is an assistant professor of English at New Mexico Military Institute.

Cynthia Maceda (BA '16) is teaching English to 12th grade students at J.P. Taravella High School.

Joanna Martin (BA '14) is attending Brandeis University and pursuing her masters in Jewish Studies.

Kamaria Massey (BA '16) is working on her masters in Higher Education and working with non-profit organizations.

Patty Mayer (BA '14) accepted an offer from the Peace Corps to teach in Myanmar.

Melissa Mazza (BA '11) is the Midwest account manager at Taylor and Francis Group.

Janine McAdams (MA '10) is an investigative consultant at Humana.

Thomas McDermott (MFA '15) is director of social media at Tambourine: Technology and Creativity for Hotels and Resorts Worldwide.

Monique McIntosh (MFA '15) works for *Luxe Interior and Design*.

Khristian Mecom (BA '07, MFA '11) published the novella *Love and Black Holes*.

Jessica Michael (BA '15) is working on her MSW at FAU.

Dana Odwazny (MA '12) is an instructor at Kumon.



Alumni Updates continued

Nicole Oquendo (BA '08, MFA '12) is course director at Full Sail University.

Marisa Papa (BA '15) works at a public relations agency in Livingston, New Jersey.

Sabryna Raymond (BA '15) is in her first year at St. Thomas University School of Law. Prior to law school, she spent a year in France as an English teaching assistant.

Chelsea Reeves (BA '16) is library media clerk at Deerfield Beach Elementary School.

Nick Robinson (MFA '09) began a tenure-track job at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC after completing a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Missouri.

Danielle Sanderson (BA '15) is earning a degree in Paralegal Studies.

Karen Seegobin (BA '08) is senior research specialist for the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Labor and Small Enterprise Development.

Rebecca Smith (BA '07, MA '09) is marketing manager and sales coordinator at Criteria for Success, Inc. in New York.

Amanda Spence (BA '09) received her MEd in Reading Education at FAU. She is now a 6th grade Language Arts teacher at Roosevelt Middle School in West Palm Beach.

Lindsay Stuart (BA '08) is vice president of business intelligence at Max Borges Agency.

José Sebastian Terneus (MA '11) is a graduate teaching associate at Arizona State University.

Carrie Thompson (BA '10) received her MEd from FAU and is currently working in higher education management. She will begin a doctoral program in the spring.

Ashely Tisdale (MA '16), who wrote her thesis on motherhood in two Toni Morrison novels, is off to Howard University's PhD program.

Anika Wali (BA '16) is working on her masters in Nonprofit Management at FAU.

Charles Zito (BA '07) is an academic coach and test-prep guru at Revolution Prep.



Giving to the FAU English Department

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